Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (ORIGINAL) A method for purifying or capturing a non-immunoglobulin protein of interest having between one and ten immunoglobulin-like (Ig-like) domains from a biological fluid, comprising the steps of:

    a) contacting the biological fluid containing the protein of interest with an Hydrophobic Charge Chromatography (HCIC) resin,

    b) washing out the resin to remove unbound contaminants,

    c) eluting the protein of interest by treating the resin with a solution having an acidic pH or with a solution comprising an organic solvent.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein the HCIC resin used in step a) ~~is MEP HyperCel~~ comprises a mercapto-ethyl pyridine ligand.

3. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the organic solvent used in step c) is propylene glycol.

4. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 3, wherein the concentration of propylene glycol in the solution is between about 25 and 50%.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein step a) is carried out at acidic pH.

6. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 5, wherein the pH used is between about 3 and 6.8.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the washing of step b) is carried out with a solution having an acidic pH.

8. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 7, wherein the pH used is between about 3 and 6.8.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the biological fluid is selected from a cell-conditioned culture medium, cell lysate, cell extract, tissue extract, blood plasma, serum, milk, urine,

ascites, cerebrospinal fluid, vegetable juice, plant extracts or a fraction derived from an earlier chromatographic separation step.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the protein of interest has 1 to 7 Ig-like domains.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the protein of interest is selected from IL-18BP, NCAM , Fibronectin type III, ICAM-1, mad CAM-1, PE CAM-1, VCAM-1, titin, cadherin, neurocan, LIFR, CNTFR, IL-1R, IL-3R, IL5R, IL-6R, IL-12R, GM-CSFR, OSMR, VEGF receptor , FGF receptor, hPDGF receptor, T cell receptor, MHC proteins, microglobulin-β, CTLA4, B7 activation agent, neuregulin, coagulation factor XIII, NF-kB, IL6-IL6R, beta-galactosidase and superoxide dismutase or an isoform, mutein, fused protein, functional derivative or fragment thereof comprising at least one Ig-like domain.

12. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein the protein is IL-18 binding protein (IL-18BP) .

13. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein the protein is IL6-IL6R chimera.

14. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 11, wherein the protein is beta galactosidase.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the purification factor of the eluted protein is in the range of 11 and 94 fold.

16. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein the purification factor of the eluted protein is about 94 fold.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the concentration factor of the eluted protein is in the range of 1.5 and 3.1 fold.

18. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 17, wherein the concentration factor of the eluted protein is about 3.1 fold.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of claims 1-18~~ claim 1, wherein the yield of the eluted protein is in the range of 73 and 98%,

20. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 19, wherein the yield of the eluted protein is about 85%.

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42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A purified protein preparation ~~according to claim 41,~~ comprising a non-immunoglobulin protein of interest having between 1 and 10 immunoglobulin-like (Ig-like) domains, purified or captured from a biological fluid by the method according to claim 1, wherein the protein of interest is selected from the group consisting of IL-18BP, NCAM , Fibronectin type III, ICAM-1, mad CAM-1, PE CAM-1, VCAM-1, titin, cadherin, neurocan, LIFR, CNTFR, IL-1R, IL-3R, IL5R, IL-6R, IL-12R, GM-CSFR, OSMR, VEGF receptor , FGF receptor, hPDGF receptor, T cell receptor, MHC proteins, microglobulin-β, CTLA4, B7 activation agent, neuregulin, coagulation factor XIII, NF-kB, IL6-IL6R, beta-galactosidase

and superoxide dismutase or an isoform, mutein, fused protein, functional derivative or fragment thereof comprising at least one Ig-like domain.

43. (ORIGINAL) A protein preparation according to claim 42, wherein the protein is IL-18BP.

44. (ORIGINAL) A protein preparation according to claim 42, wherein the protein is IL6-IL6R.

45. (ORIGINAL) A protein preparation according to claim 42, wherein the protein is beta galactosidase.